

(2) urges the Secretary of State to provide assistance, if the 1993 summer World University Games are held in Buffalo, to the organizers of the Games by implementing special ease-of-entry procedures for the foreign athletes competing in the Games;

(3) supports the efforts of New York, the Greater Buffalo Athletic Corporation, and community leaders to ensure that the highest caliber athletic facilities are made available for the 1993 summer World University Games if they are held in Buffalo.

Agreed to June 6, 1989.

June 7, 1989

[S. Con. Res. 26]

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS— VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

Whereas the refugee crisis in Southeast Asia remains unresolved and large numbers of refugees continue to flee from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia;

Whereas, although Hong Kong and ASEAN first asylum countries are to be commended for their past actions on behalf of refugees in the region, specifically for providing, beginning in 1975, temporary refuge for hundreds of thousands of Indochinese asylum-seekers, concerns remain that all asylum-seekers arriving in Hong Kong and in ASEAN member countries be provided refuge;

Whereas, in June 1989, the United Nations will convene the International Conference on Indochinese Refugees in Geneva, Switzerland;

Whereas representatives of the ASEAN member countries, the United States, Canada, Australia, Hong Kong, the European Community, Japan, Vietnam, Laos, and other interested and affected countries gathered on March 7-9, 1989, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for the Preparatory Meeting for the International Conference on Indochinese Refugees;

Whereas the countries represented at the Preparatory Meeting unanimously adopted a draft declaration and comprehensive plan of action to be presented for ratification at the June United Nations Conference in Geneva;

Whereas the draft declaration agreed to by all countries present at the meeting in Kuala Lumpur includes provisions for region-wide screening of asylum-seekers and for the encouragement of voluntary repatriation under the auspices and monitoring of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) of persons determined not to be refugees;

Whereas the ongoing program in Thailand for the screening of Lao asylum-seekers has had major and continuing problems;

Whereas the ASEAN member countries have announced that all asylum-seekers from Vietnam arriving in ASEAN countries on or after March 14, 1989, will be screened to determine their refugee status; and

Whereas the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has demonstrated its hostility to those leaving Vietnam illegally and, in particular, to those refusing to return to Vietnam voluntarily: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),
That (a) it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) ASEAN first asylum countries should reaffirm the practice of providing adequate refuge for all Vietnamese asylum-seekers, while carrying out the screening of such individuals;

(2) early access should be given to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to provide humane care and protection to such asylum-seekers;

(3) no repatriation of Vietnamese asylum-seekers should occur until a strong and effective internationally approved mechanism is in place to guarantee that such asylum-seekers will be returned in conditions of safety and dignity and will not be subjected to persecution in any form;

(4) given Vietnamese attitudes toward illegal departure, forced repatriation of refugees to Vietnam should not be considered a viable option;

(5) continuing efforts should be made to improve the screening program of Lao asylum-seekers in Thailand;

(6) the United States should remain committed to a generous and humane Southeast Asian refugee resettlement policy; and

(7) the United States should urge its Western allies to implement or continue generous and humane Southeast Asia refugee resettlement policies.

(b) For purposes of this resolution—

(1) the term “ASEAN” means the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; and

(2) the term “ASEAN first asylum countries” includes any country which is a member of the ASEAN group of countries and which is the first to receive an individual seeking asylum.

Agreed to June 7, 1989.

VIETNAM—RELEASE AND EMIGRATION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

June 13, 1989

[S. Con. Res. 16]

Whereas fourteen years have passed since the end of the Vietnam conflict;

Whereas thousands of opponents of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, including officials of, and others associated with, the former Republic of Vietnam, were detained without trial in “reeducation” camps or prisons beginning in 1975;

Whereas a series of large-scale amnesties took place in the late 1980’s resulting in the release of many detainees;

Whereas despite these welcome releases, many Vietnamese remain in long-term detention because of their suspected opposition to the Government of Vietnam, and many family members of detainees do not know their status;